

son had not lived to see this, or the loss of his home and estate to his daughter's family.

Through the spring of 1826, Jefferson's health failed rapidly. He still took his daily ride on horseback, refusing to be accompanied by a servant; but before the summer he had grown too weak to move from his chair and couch. His mind, however, retained its power and clearness throughout. He read much in the Bible and in the Greek tragedians and wrote several letters of some length, the last being dated June 24th. It was an acknowledgment of an invitation to be present in Washington City at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence.

From the middle of June, the strength still left in his once powerful frame rapidly declined, and he quietly breathed his last shortly after mid-day of July 4th, a few hours after his old colleague, opponent, and devoted friend, John Adams, had passed away. Jefferson was laid to rest by the side of the wife whom he had so fondly loved, and within sight of the stately buildings to which the thought and activity of his last years had been devoted. On his simple tombstone is the inscription:

Here was buried  
THOMAS JEFFERSON  
author of the  
Declaration  
of American  
Independence  
of the Statute  
of Virginia  
for  
Religious Freedom  
And Father of the  
University of Virginia.

Born April 2, 1743,  
O. S. Died July 4,  
1826.